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marriage," "Bolshevism," and "German militarism," the author expresses his views regarding many social and economic questions. He dissents emphatically from the doctrine that population increases faster than subsistence. Having faith in the "illimitable power of human invention and resource," he denounces the doctrine of over population as a bogey raised by Malthus, and repeatedly declares that "no country can continue powerful without a progressive population." This would seem to be the fundamental tenet in his philosophy of population.

The most valuable and interesting portions of this book, as already intimated, are those which relate to the English census; and the author might have forestalled criticism to some extent if he had adopted some title less pretentious and more appropriate, such as "Informal Talks on the Census and Other Subjects."

J. A. HILL

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*The Economics of Petroleum*, by Joseph E. Pogue. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1921. 375 pp.

Mr. Joseph E. Pogue's latest book, "The Economics of Petroleum," deserves appraisal from three points of view.

It merits a place as a source book in the neglected field of the economics of production and marketing. The author does not deal with labor problems; his only reference to labor is labor cost. He has little or nothing to say of monopoly, combination, regulation, or the Sherman and Clayton acts, and he makes only incidental reference to finance, investment and profits. He places emphasis rather on the supply and demand for petroleum and its multiple products; on the commercial interaction of oil and the other fuels; and on the machinery of production, transportation, and marketing. His analysis of these subjects is able and comprehensive. It is a study of the kind that we need to develop a theory of production.

To the executives of the petroleum business the book should have an even stronger appeal. It is the first comprehensive picture of the industry that combines a consideration of engineering and economics. The analysis is dynamic rather than static. It searches for trends and finds many of them—trends of markets, of prices, of reserves and demand. American petroleum is considered in its relation to the world supply, and oil is viewed as in competition with coal, oil shale, gas, and water power. The market for by-products and the competitive pressure of substitutes are examined. Changes in the future supply of motor fuel are correlated with necessary changes in the engines that use it. The basic material on these varied topics the author has selected from many sources and has examined critically in the light of his own experience as geologist and consulting engineer. To cover so wide a field requires boldness in interpreting and in projecting trends, and the technicians will doubtless take exception to some of Mr. Pogue's conclusions; but it is just this courageous projecting of tendencies that business needs in a troubled time like the present, and the fuel industry owes Mr. Pogue a debt of thanks for undertaking it. Probably no other man in the country could do the job so well.

The book is also interesting because of its statistical technique. Text, tabular

matter, and diagrams are woven into an organic whole. To economize the attention of the reader, quantities are expressed in large units—millions of barrels, thousands of dollars, etc.—not only in the text itself but also in formal tables. How many of Mr. Pogue's readers will correctly interpret the logarithmic charts that he uses to show rates of change may be open to question; but he has taken every precaution to prevent misunderstanding, including an ingenious marginal "sale of increase or decrease." Indeed, the standard of execution of all the diagrams is high, and there are many of them. As a presentation of quantitative data the book is notably successful.

F. G. TRYON

U. S. Geological Survey

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*History of the Great War Based on Official Documents.* Medical Service General History, Volume I. London: His Majesty's Stationary Office. 1921. 463 pp.

This is the first of four volumes on the general history of the British medical service, and is a part of the series giving a more detailed history of the war from the medical and surgical standpoints. This volume relates in narrative form the chief features of the medical service from 1914 to 1918 in the United Kingdom in garrison overseas and with expeditionary forces. The other three volumes of the series will deal with the medical service in France, Italy, the Mediterranean area, Mesopotamia, Aden, East Africa, and Russia.

There is a brief summary of the growth of the Royal Army Medical Corps before the World War, and its subsequent expansion. An account of the training of the medical staff, its duties, administration, and the handling of supplies and equipment from 1914 through demobilization is given in detail. It is pointed out that the medical service expanded rather by accretion than by preconceived plan. There is a brief summary of the medical service in West and Southwest Africa and in Tsingtau. There is also a full account of some of the more important problems which the R. A. M. C. encountered, especially in reference to the medical examination of recruits, the sanitary arrangements for billeting, and the demobilization of the doctors. This impartial explanation answers the criticism which was so common during the war and which arose from the failure to understand the problems involved. The reader of the volume will get an intelligent grasp of the problems connected with the R. A. M. C.; and for those who wish to go into greater detail there are tables and summaries in the Appendix giving information relative to the quantity of supplies and equipment and of the accommodations for the wounded.

MARGARET GANTT STEPHENS

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*A First Course in Statistics*, by D. Caradog Jones. London: G. Bell & Sons, Ltd. 1921. 286 pp.

This book is adapted for use as a text by students who have previously covered an elementary treatise on the subject. True, it begins with a review of fundamental principles, but the treatment is so brief and the discussion so meager that it is not well suited to beginners in the field.